

Community Relations Plan

A guide to CERCLA public involvement in the cleanup program at the INEEL

**Idaho
Completion
Project**

Bechtel BWXT Idaho, LLC

To the reader:

This Community Relations Plan, a revision to the 1995 plan, addresses public involvement in CERCLA remediation activities at the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL) site. The plan plays an important role in identifying the range of activities in which you can participate during the remediation process.

The Community Relations Plan is just one part of a wider effort to inform and involve the public in the broad range of cleanup work at the INEEL.

The process for addressing remediation concerns was mutually agreed upon by the U.S. Department of Energy, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the state of Idaho. These agencies are committed to providing public involvement activities that provide unbiased information and a direct link between your comments and agency cleanup decisions. Key community concerns about the Department of Energy's public involvement program are addressed in this plan.

Your input on activities will influence the types of information and public involvement opportunities the agencies provide. The Community Relations Plan establishes the basis for public and agency interaction as the CERCLA remediation process moves toward completion.

The Agencies

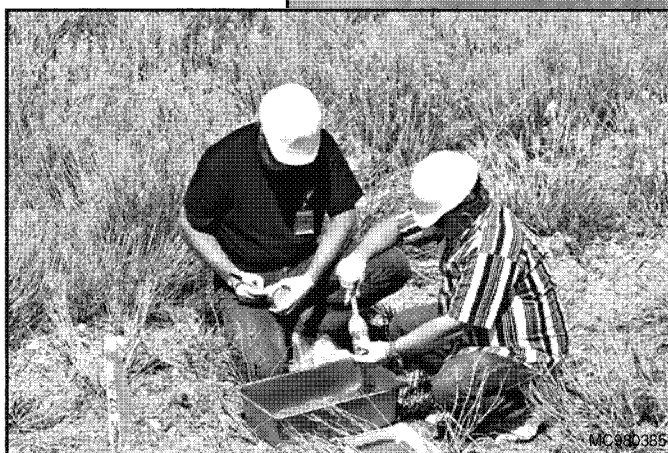
**U.S.
Department
of Energy**



**U.S.
Environmental
Protection
Agency**



**Idaho
Department of
Environmental
Quality**



Workers collect soil samples near the Test Reactor Area

Contents	iii
I. Overview	1
What is the Community Relations Plan?	1
Why is the plan needed?	2
Objectives of the Community Relations Plan	3
<i>CHART: What is the relationship between CERCLA and other cleanup at the INEEL?</i>	3
II. Shifting the focus to completion	4
Accelerated cleanup	5
What happens after cleanup work is completed?	6
A brief history of cleanup at the INEEL	7
<i>MAP: The Snake River Plain Aquifer</i>	8
Early assessment of the INEEL	9
INEEL cleanup and the Settlement Agreement	9
III. The process of cleaning up	10
The Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order	10
Agency roles	10
How does DOE find contaminated sites?	11
Defining “cleanup” and “remediation”	12
The FFA/CO Action Plan	12
<i>MAP: INEEL facilities and waste area groups</i>	13
Waste area groups and operable units	14
The Superfund process	14
1. Investigation	14
2. Decision	15
<i>CHART: Roadmap of the CERCLA process</i>	15
3. Design	16
4. Action	16
5. Operation and maintenance	16
Removal actions	17
The five year review process	17





IV. Public involvement	18
DOE's commitment to involvement	18
The affected community	19
<i>CHART: What happens to public comment?</i>	19
Community profile	20
Levels of public involvement	20
Key concerns and values	21
1. Protection of human health and the environment	21
2. DOE credibility and commitment to public involvement	22
3. State and EPA involvement	23
4. Effectiveness of public involvement activities	23
5. Effectiveness of communications and written material	24
6. Responsiveness	24
V. Appendices	25
Appendix A	25
Description of activities	25
Information activities	25
Involvement activities	27
Appendix B	29
Technical assistance grants	29
Appendix C	30
List of contacts	30
INEEL Information Repositories	30
Public reading room hours	30